

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1,3, 5 to 10, 19 to 30, 43 and 44 as being obvious and unpatentable based upon the Nien et al. '184 patent in view of the Bellinger '562 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is again respectfully traversed. Further, the rejection of Claims 11 to 18, and 31 to 42 as being obvious and unpatentable based upon the Nien et al. '184 patent in view of the Chang '889 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is also respectfully traversed.

The Nien '184 patent discloses a decorative plate assembling structure for an upper beam of a blind device.

The Bellinger '562 patent discloses a curtain holder bracket for mounting on a window frame.

The Chang '889 patent discloses a rod rack supporting structure for holding one or more cylindrical curtain rods.

The Nien et al. '184 patent and the Bellinger '562 patent, even when combined, do not disclose or teach the following elements of Amended Independent Claims 1 and 21:

a) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods; and

b) each of the upper and lower receiving channels of each of the blind bracket mounting devices being U-shaped and having a locking lip for preventing each of the first and second holding wall members from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Nien and Bellinger patents do not teach that their respective holder brackets have upper and lower channels that are U-shaped and having a locking lip for preventing each of its holding wall members from falling out of the v-shaped conventional blind mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods. Also, the Nien '184 patent is only designed to hold decorative plates and not one or more curtain rods with curtains thereon. Nien's holder brackets as designed, see Figures 1 and 2, would not be capable of supporting multiple curtain rods and curtains on its holder brackets. The present invention was designed to hold multiple curtain rods having curtains. Further, the Bellinger '562 patent does not show upper and lower channels, its holder brackets are directly attached to a window frame, and not to a conventional blind mounting device.

The Nien et al. '184 patent and the Chang '889 patent, even when combined, do not disclose or teach the following elements of Amended Independent Claim 31:

a) each of the first and second holding wall members having upper and lower channels, respectively, which are slidably received within the U-shaped conventional blind bracket mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods; and

b) each of the upper and lower receiving channels of each of the blind bracket mounting devices being U-shaped and having a locking lip for preventing each of the first and second holding wall members from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices.

The Nien and Chang patents do not teach that their respective holder brackets have upper and lower channels that are U-shaped and having a locking lip for preventing each of its holding wall members from falling out of the V-shaped conventional blind mounting device for holding one or more curtain rods. Also, the Nien '184 patent is only designed to hold decorative plates and not one or more curtain rods with curtains thereon. Nien's holder brackets as designed, see Figures 1 and 2, would not be capable of supporting multiple curtain rods and curtains on its holder brackets. The present invention was designed to hold multiple curtain rods having curtains. Further, the Chang '889 patent does not show upper and lower channels, its holder support brackets are directly attached to a window frame, and not to a conventional blind mounting device.

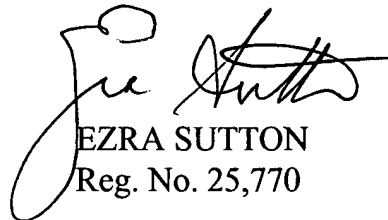
In addition, with regard to the applicant's statement on the top of page 12 of the application regarding L-shapes or U-shapes being used, applicant wishes to clarify that he L-shape numbers 74 and 78 referred to are actually U-shape channels, as shown in Figures 2 to 4 of the drawings. Therefore, it is not really a design choice as stated by the Examiner, since only a U-shaped channel with a locking lip works to hold the weight of multiple curtain rods with curtains thereon and not fall out of a conventional blind mounting device. An L-shape would not work to do this.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, even if the prior art references of Nien et al. and Bellinger are combined, they do not teach or disclose the claimed features of amended independent Claims 1 and 21 and the Claims which depend therefrom. Further, even if the prior art references of Nien et al. and Chang are combined, they do not teach or disclose the claimed features of amended independent Claim 31 and the Claims which depend therefrom. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's Amended Claims 1 to 43 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

EZRA SUTTON, P.A.



EZRA SUTTON
Reg. No. 25,770

Plaza 9, 900 Route 9
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
(732) 634-3520
ES/al

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR
PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 ON

By: Angela Lerea

Date: March 12, 2003



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1(Twice Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

5 a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge;

b) said first holding wall member having mounted thereon a first curtain rod holding prong member and a second curtain rod holding prong member;

10 c) said upper channel for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device;

15 d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge;

e) said second holding wall member having mounted thereon a third curtain rod holding prong member and a fourth curtain rod holding prong member;

f) said upper channel for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; [and]

g) said curtain rod holding prong members are for receiving one or more curtain rods thereon[.] ; and

h) each of said upper and lower receiving channels of each of the blind bracket mounting devices being U-shaped and each having a locking lip for preventing each of said first and second holding wall members from falling out of the blind mounting devices.

21(Twice Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more flat curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, a lower channel, a first side perimeter edge and a second side perimeter edge;

b) said first holding wall member having attached thereto a first curtain rod holding prong member having a first side wall with an upper first prong tab member thereon, and said first holding wall member having attached thereto a second curtain rod holding prong member having a second side wall with an upper second prong tab member thereon;

c) said upper channel of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices;

d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, and a lower channel, a third side perimeter edge and a fourth side perimeter edge;

e) said second holding wall member having attached thereto a third curtain rod holding prong member having a third side wall with an upper third prong tab member thereon, and said second holding wall member having attached thereto a fourth curtain rod holding prong member having a fourth side wall with an upper fourth prong tab member thereon;

f) said upper channel of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; [and]

g) said upper second and fourth prong tab members of said second and fourth curtain rod holding prong members receive the inner first flat curtain rod thereon, and said upper first and third prong tab members of said first and third curtain rod holding prong members receive the outer second flat curtain rod thereon; and

5 h) each of said upper and lower receiving channels of each of the blind bracket mounting devices being U-shaped and each having a locking lip for preventing each of said first and second holding wall members from falling out of the blind mounting devices.

31(Twice Amended). Curtain mounting brackets for curtain rods for use with conventional blind bracket mounting devices of a blind assembly for attaching one or more cylindrical curtain rods thereon in order to hold a curtain and/or valance thereto, comprising:

10 a) a first bracket housing including a first holding wall member having an upper channel, and a lower channel;

 b) said first holding wall member having a first holding arm member mounted thereon with a first set of one or more rod holding sections therein, said first set of one or more rod holding sections of said first holding arm member for holding in place one end of the cylindrical curtain rod;

c) said upper channel of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel of said first holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing one end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting devices;

d) a second bracket housing including a second holding wall member having an upper channel, and a lower channel;

e) said second holding wall member having a second holding arm member mounted thereon with a second set of one or more rod holding sections therein, said second set of one or more rod holding sections of said second holding arm member for holding in place the other end of the cylindrical curtain rod;

f) said upper channel of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to an upper receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device, and said lower channel of said second holding wall member for engaging and being joined to a lower receiving channel of the conventional blind bracket mounting device for preventing the other end of the blind assembly from falling out of the blind bracket mounting device; [and]

g) said first and second holding arm members for holding in place the ends of one or more cylindrical curtain rods in a parallel relationship with each other ; and [.]

h) each of said upper and lower receiving channels of each of the blind bracket mounting devices being U-shaped and each having a locking lip for preventing each of said
5 first and second holding wall members from falling out of the blind mounting devices.